

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method comprising:  
requesting identification keys of archived data objects to be deleted from a database;  
deleting at least one data object identified in response to the request for the identification keys while requesting additional identification keys of data objects to be deleted.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the archived data objects include one or more records of business data.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein deleting at least one data object comprises receiving at least one identification key corresponding to the at least one data object to be deleted.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the at least one identification key is selected based on system administrator configurable parameters.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the at least one identification key is selected from a plurality of unlocked identification keys.
6. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the at least one identification key is selected based on logical partitions.
7. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the system administrator configurable parameters include a parameter specifying a maximum number of

identification keys to be returned in response to the request for the identification keys.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising confirming content of the at least one data object to be deleted prior to the deleting the at least one data object.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising deducing location of the content of the at least one data object to be deleted from an identification key associated with the at least one data object.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein deleting at least one data object is performed by a delete job.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein a plurality of delete jobs are performed in parallel.

12. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising locking the at least one identification key of the at least one data object being deleted.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising deleting identification keys of deleted objects upon receipt of a confirmation of deletion.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the archived data objects to be deleted from the database are data objects specified by a system administrator to be archived.

15. – 27. (Cancelled).

28. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

means for requesting identification keys of archived data objects to be deleted from a database;

means for deleting at least one data object identified in response to a request for the identification keys while requesting additional identification keys of data objects to be deleted.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the means for deleting at least one data object comprise the means for receiving at least one identification key selected based on system administrator configurable parameters, the received at least one identification key corresponds to the at least one data objects to be deleted.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the at least one identification key is selected randomly from a plurality of unlocked identification keys.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the at least one identification key is selected based on logical partitions.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the system administrator configurable parameters include a parameter specifying a maximum number of identification keys to be selected in response to a request for identification keys.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising means for confirming content of the at least one data object to be deleted prior to deletion of the at least one data object.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33 further comprising means for deducing location of the content of the at least one data object to be deleted from an identification key associated with the at least one data object.

35. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising:  
a storage medium having stored therein instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause a processing system to perform a method comprising:  
requesting identification keys of archived data objects to be deleted from a database;  
deleting at least one data object identified in response to a request for the identification keys while requesting additional identification keys of data objects to be deleted.
36. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 35 wherein the instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processing system to perform the method wherein the deleting at least one data object comprises receiving at least one identification key selected based on system administrator configurable parameters, the received at least one identification key corresponds to the at least one data objects to be deleted.
37. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 35 wherein the instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processing system to perform the method wherein the at least one identification key is selected randomly from a plurality of unlocked identification keys.
38. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 35 wherein the instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processing system to perform the method wherein the at least one identification key is selected based on logical partitions.
39. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 35 wherein the system administrator configurable parameters include a parameter specifying a maximum number of identification keys to be selected in response to a request for identification keys.